Rome April 9th 1837

My dear Tom

As I have an opportunity of sending you a letter free of expence and quick, I don't mind writing on this shabby paper as it is Sunday & I cannot get any other, so don't think it shabby of me but ask in your love — I wrote to Charley got a letter from me and gave you my scribbling for your not writing as it was on business so I won't say any more than that I am concerned at not hearing from you — Did Mr Westwood get both his pictures? — he paid you the 20 £ I know from Charles —

You gave me some hope that I might see you perhaps here before this which would have been a great delight to me, but I suppose you find it impracticable, and now I cannot ask you for I have had some serious drawbacks in money (this to yourself) to the amount of — 300 £ which leaves me a little shackled tho' not in debt a farthing, or in low spirits — I have the comfort of good health, and plenty to do so I don't think of it but will go on earning more — I hope you can give me a better account of yourself or I shall despair on your account more than my own — Charles told me you were recovering from the Griffin which I glad to hear — It has at last reached here, but so far we are free and as we live in a ventilated situation it is likely we may not

have it. — How goes on Music & Musicians? Paul Lesueur from the newspapers is a great thing, I remember Mendelssohn in Rome and am glad to hear of his success — Pic Jeanmaire says he takes the place of Rossini and Bellini — I heard an Opera of the latter which pleased me much, it was Beatrice Tenda, it is the best Italian work I have heard, —

I hope Rockwell to have the happiness to see my poor dear Mother, and should not be on my way but for the losses I have had, yet still if something turns up I shall set off to England for I long to come and see you all it will be 17 years in October since you & I smiled down the Thames with poor Heath, I see you now in my minds eye, and the blue coat you had on, I can never forget you — how pale you looked at the scene we had passed and how I trembled — yet all this was for the best, for I could not without have done what I have done here, or certainly made so many friends who are capable of serving my family —

But I am getting a bit too low and so with

change the subject. — Go to the exibition for I think you will see a few very works, one is the study for my Altar piece, another is from Bulwers Pompeii

My little ones are all very well and merry. I've 3 Sons & 2 daughters — soon my eldest boy Walter will come to England to be put to school, do you know any thing about the Christ church school? I have such a presentiment in favor of it — Do you know any of the Directors? There are Mr Smith's schools where I can send him but I fear they are too fine, and as he must work as I have done 'tis better I begin with him early. —

Remember me most kindly to dear Marcia and tell her by this time I hope I have surprised her with a visit, I'll warrant she would not have known my step at the door. — Emma will like it but it depends on my having a few £ to spare, or if I get at the interest like a shot — leaving my family here

Rome has been dull owing to the Lenten and is so still, nor believe I've yet attuned it to With the kindest remembrances to all believe me my dear Tom Your affectionate brother Joseph

I should like much to have some of my pictures which you got sent out to me and as I shall have an opportunity by the return of the Revelation steamer I should like the others to be rolled with it and sent by sea by Messrs. McCracken & Old Jewry—

1 The Conspiracy of Rome now at Westminster
2 The Angel from Guido
3 The head of Giorgione with a mark
4 The peasant girl looking out of window
5 The Cave of Despair

& the prints, drawings, sketch books & (take of the covers & the wires

Rose can be sent when the exhibition is over and St. Westminster receives the large pictures from the exhibition — I am sorry to put you to more cost but they will be of service to me here and I have their opportunity of their coming